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GENERAL

1. Bevin hopeful of lessening East-West tension--According to US Embassy London, Foreign Secretary Bevin, in discussing the Soviet proposal for a Foreign Ministers conference, expressed the belief that there is evidence of a less aggressive attitude on the part of the USSR and that there is some prospect of a lessening of world tension. Bevin also believes that if progress in organizing western defenses can be shown before a Foreign Ministers conference is held, there is hope for an improvement in East-West relations.

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2. View on US-British Relations--The US Representative at the UN reports that UK Minister of State Younger is becoming seriously concerned over the effect on the British Government of US press criticism of the UK. Younger fears that British public opinion would get the impression that the UK was being forced to take an intransigent position. In such an event, the Government would be under pressure to undertake negotiations with the USSR and might be forced to make public statements which could lead the US and the UK farther apart on Far Eastern and Soviet problems.

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FAR EAST

3. INDOCHINA: French military plans--French General De Latour, newly appointed Commanding General in North Vietnam, has informed US Consul Blancke in Hanoi that he will try to hold the Tonkin Delta but is not certain that he can. De Latour plans to: (a) complete the organization of

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- 1 -

STATE review(s) completed.

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mobile reserves into combat teams by the end of November; (b) retain by the end of 1950 a sizeable area of the Delta; and (c) begin dealing offensive blows when US tanks and replacements from France arrive, but not with the intent of holding points attacked. The General does not feel that Chinese are present on a large scale among Viet Minh forces and stressed that all his present plans assume no real Chinese intervention. In case this assumption is unfounded, however, De Latour said that "matters would be frankly beyond him and out of his hands."

- 2 -

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